

Montana State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Application – Phase 2

July 27, 2012

America COMPETES Act – 12 Data Elements	Work in Progress	Completion Date
1 - A unique statewide student identifier that does not permit a student to be individually identified by users of the system		Completed
2 - Student-level enrollment, demographic, and program participation information		Completed
3 - Student-level information about the points at which students exit, transfer in, transfer out, drop out, or complete P-16 education programs		Completed
4 - The capacity to communicate with higher education data systems		Completed
5 - A State data audit system assessing data quality, validity, and reliability		Completed
6 - Yearly test records of individual students with respect to assessments under section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965		Completed
7 - Information on students not tested by grade and subject		Completed
8 - A teacher identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students	Detailed tasks and timeline are included in this plan	Estimated completion date- June 2013
9 - Student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned	Detailed tasks and timeline are included in this plan	Estimated completion date - December 2013
10 - Student-level college readiness test scores	Detailed tasks and timeline are included in this plan	Estimated completion date - September 2013
11 - Information regarding the extent to which students transition successfully from secondary school to postsecondary education, including whether students enroll in remedial coursework		Completed
12 - Information determined necessary to address alignment and adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education	No new data needs have been identified yet, but may be identified in policy discussions	

**Data Element #8: A teacher identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students**

Currently, the OPI assigns a unique "folio number" to an educator when the educator applies for an educator license to teach in Montana. In addition, the OPI collects the license numbers for specialists who are employed by the school districts, but do not hold an educator license. Examples of these specialists include speech pathologists, physical and occupational therapists, and school nurses. For years, these folio/license numbers have met the state's needs for a teacher identifier because the folio/license numbers are reported by school districts along with personnel assignments to the SEA each fall. The OPI has been able to link personnel assignments with the educator licensure database to determine if schools are meeting the accreditation standards and to respond to reporting requirements for highly qualified teachers.

More recently, the state has identified the need for a school staff identifier, which will be applied to all school employees, licensed and non-licensed. The SEA is instituting the school staff identifier; the state will complete the assignment these identifiers before the start of the 2012-13 school.

Milestones for Data Element #8	Completion Date
As part of its School Staffing Project, the OPI reviews options for assignment of a school staff identifier to all school staff and determines a process and timeline for assigning the identifiers to school personnel.	September 2010
OPI selects an option to assign the school employee identifier (SEID) using a tool that is in development for the education licensure system.	June 2011
During the 2011-2012 school year, school employee identifiers will be assigned to all school employees in 427 public school districts and in private accredited schools.	August 24, 2012
Reporting of personnel assignments by LEAs will include the school staff identifier.	October 2012
OPI collects student rosters with the personnel assignments for the 2012-2013 school year.	June 2013

*Budget for Implementation of Data Element #8*

The Montana Legislature appropriated \$400,000 of state general fund money to the Office of Public Instruction for the implementation of the School Staffing Project. In FY 2011, OPI contracted with Hupp Information Technology to rewrite its education licensure system. The assignment of a school staff identifier is included within the contract deliverables for the licensure system. The project is led by a 6-person project leadership team, which includes the project manager, the director of Educator Licensure, the administrator of the Accreditation Division, an Operations Research Analyst in the Measurement and Accountability Division, the Chief of Staff, and the Executive Director of the State Board of Public Education.

**Data Element #9: Student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned**

In conjunction with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, the OPI has developed a high-level plan for how the state would collect student transcript information for each K-12 student at the completion of each grade and store that information in an electronic student transcript repository. The details of this plan were included in the state's application to the Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education) for a K-20 state longitudinal data system grant. OPI submitted its application to IES in December 2011 and was awarded a \$3.9 million award in June 2012.

Milestones for Data Element #9	Completion Date
OPI and its partners apply to USED for a K-20 state longitudinal data system grant to create an electronic student transcript repository	December 2011
OPI contracts with a vendor for the transcript service	January 2013
Develop and conduct training for LEAs (high schools)	August 2013
Deliver data to the repository for students enrolled in the 2013-14 school year	December 2013

*Budget for Implementation of Data Element #9*

The OPI has estimated that the cost of designing, implementing and loading data into an electronic student repository and training school districts in its use is \$3.9 million. The cost estimate and timelines are described in detail in the state's application for a K-20 state longitudinal data system grant. The grant also identifies the staffing associated with this project.

**Data Element #10: Student-level college readiness test scores**

The Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education has been awarded a GEAR UP grant, which includes funding for *ACT Plus Writing*. In April 2012, approximately 30% of Montana's high school juniors (3500 students) participated in a pilot of the *ACT Plus Writing*. In 2013, all high schools will offer the *ACT Plus Writing* to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Milestones for Data Element #10	Completion Date
Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education secures a seven-year, \$28 Million GEAR UP grant, which includes funding for the statewide administration of <i>ACT Plus Writing</i> to all 11 <sup>th</sup> grade students.	September 2011
OPI begins a pilot project with 51 high schools to administer the <i>ACT Plus Writing</i> for all 11 <sup>th</sup> grade students in the pilot schools in the Spring 2012.	November 2011
Montana OPI contracts with ACT to receive test results for students who took the ACT test in 2011.	November 2011
Montana OPI imports 2011 ACT test results into the GEMS K-12 education data warehouse for public posting.	September 2012
Montana renews contract with ACT to receive test results for students who took the ACT in 2012.	November 2012
All Montana high schools offer <i>ACT Plus Writing</i> to 11 <sup>th</sup> grade	April 2013

students at no cost to students/parents beginning in Spring 2013. Statewide student identifiers will be included on the test document.	
ACT provides state student data file and state test profile report for students who were tested in 2013.	September 2013

*Budget for Implementation of Data Element #10*

The cost estimate for a Montana contract for *ACT Plus Writing* through ACT's State Testing Program is \$594,000 for 12,000 11<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in the assessment. In addition, the state anticipates that it will have \$100,000 in program costs related to the administration of the test by school districts. The funding source for the *ACT Plus Writing* is a seven-year, federal GEAR UP grant.

The contract with ACT for release of student test scores for 2011 and 2012 is \$2500 annually. This cost will be paid from the federal Striving Readers grant awarded to the Montana OPI.

The key personnel for this project are the State Assessment director and the staff of the Measurement and Accountability Division.

**Data Element #12: Information determined necessary to address alignment and adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education**

No new data needs have been identified for Data Element #12 although the OPI expects that information needs will arise from the on-going work of various P-20 policy groups. Three initiatives in particular are likely to identify data that is needed to address alignment issues and the adequacy of preparation for success in postsecondary education.

- 1) The state has launched a review of the Montana School Accreditation standards.
- 2) The OPI, Board of Public Education and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education have completed a process with the legislative interim committee on Education and Local Government to adopt P-20 Shared Policy Goals with the Montana legislature. This process included the designation of performance measurements.
- 3) Montana has adopted the Common Core State Standards and Assessments.

Any one of these initiatives is likely to require additional data gathering and analysis.